

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1, 3-20, 24-31, and 45-47 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1, 3-20, 24-31, and 45-47 are allowed.

Change in Inventorship

Due to the cancellation of claims 2, 21-23 and 32-44 by an Amendment mailed to the Patent and Trademark Office on October 4, 2005 (filed with the Patent and Trademark Office on October 7, 2005), the inventorship of the above identified application has changed. The remaining claims 1, 3-20, 24-31, and 45-47 are the invention of Katsuhiko ASAI, Sadafusa TSUJI, Katsuyuki NANBA, Masahiko MATSUURA, Makiko MANDAI and Hiroshi ISHIBE. Accordingly, Mikihiro KOMATSU, Kazuaki OKUMURA and Naoki MASAZUMI should be removed as inventors from this application.

Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.48(b), please amend the inventorship of the above-referenced application by removing Mikihiro KOMATSU, Kazuaki OKUMURA and Naoki MASAZUMI as inventors, leaving Katsuhiko ASAI, Sadafusa TSUJI, Katsuyuki NANBA, Masahiko MATSUURA, Makiko MANDAI and Hiroshi ISHIBE as the inventors.

This Amendment Processing fee in the amount of \$130.00 is to be charged to Sidley Austin LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260 as noted in the Transmittal of Issue Fee.

This Amendment is being presented promptly after the discovery of the need therefor. This Amendment does not affect the scope of the claims, does not introduce any new matter, does not present any new issue, does not require any additional search, and will not present an undue burden on the personnel of the Patent and Trademark Office.

Application No. 09/618,326
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.312 dated February 3, 2006
Reply to Notice of Allowance of November 3, 2005

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Amendment be entered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Respectfully submitted,

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